

# AGRICULTURAL AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS REVIEW

Modeling Unobserved Heterogeneity in New York Dairy Farms: One-Stage versus Two-Stage Models / *Antonio Alvarez, Julio del Corral, and Loren W. Tauer*

Effectiveness of Intellectual Property Protection: Survey Evidence from China / *Guanming Shi, Carl Pray, and Wenhui Zhang*

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Evaluation of Crop Insurance Yield Guarantees and Producer Welfare with Upward-Trending Yields / *Shyam Adhikari, Thomas O. Knight, and Eric J. Belasco*

Revisiting the Impact of Bt Corn Adoption by U.S. Farmers / *Jorge Fernandez-Cornejo and Seth Wechsler*

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## NAREA Awards

### *Outstanding Master's Thesis Award*

## **Public Goods and Spatial Location: Stated Preference Prioritization with Spatial Interdependencies**

**Steven J. Dundas**

**University of Delaware**

**Advisor: Joshua M. Duke**

Public goods exist in space and recent research has shown that accounting for the location of their provision can have policy implications. This study examines willingness to pay (WTP) for land preservation to provide a public-goods context where spatial location matters. Benefits are derived from existing survey data on parcel preservation in Delaware.<sup>1</sup> Easement costs are estimated with a hedonic model using data on applicant parcels to the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation. To establish a baseline, parcels are then selected under a fixed budget with four different prioritization strategies: benefit-targeting (BT), cost-targeting (CT), benefit-cost targeting (BCRT), and a binary linear programming optimization method (OPT). Next, in order to investigate the potential impact of spatial interdependencies on parcel selection, a distinct “gravity” is calculated for each parcel  $i$  to every other parcel  $j$  in a feasible set based on the size of the parcels and the distance amongst them. The gravity values are then scaled by an agglomeration preference parameter ( $\alpha$ ) to determine the additional spatial synergy benefits for all parcels. Par-

cells are selected utilizing an algorithm for a quadratic knapsack problem (QKP) and a sensitivity analysis is conducted because the true value of the preference parameter  $\alpha$  is unknown.

Results from the county-level model demonstrate that optimal (OPT) and near-optimal (BCRT) parcel prioritizations both produce substantially more net benefits to society than suboptimal strategies (BT and CT) that are commonly utilized by preservation agencies. Furthermore, accounting for additional benefits resulting from spatial interdependence dramatically alters the optimal set of parcels selected. Since the primary land preservation decision is whether to preserve a specific parcel, consideration of systematic elements, such as spatial interdependence, is needed to avoid potentially arriving at suboptimal policy guidance.

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<sup>1</sup> Johnston, R.J., and J.M. Duke. 2007. “Willingness to Pay for Agricultural Land Preservation and Policy Process Attributes: Does the Method Matter?” *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 89(4): 1098–1115.

### *Master's Thesis Award of Merit*

## **Agricultural Best Management Practice Adoption Decisions and Spatial Dependence in Southeastern Pennsylvania Farms and Watersheds**

**Zachary Kaufman**

**Pennsylvania State University**

**Advisor: James Shortle**

The objective of this study is to determine factors influencing the Best Management Practice (BMP) adoption decisions of farmers within 17 counties in Southeastern Pennsylvania. Specifically, the land-based characteristics of adoption are analyzed along with the spatial distribution of BMP adoption. In an attempt to discover patterns in adoption at varying scales, both farm- and watershed-level models are utilized. BMP adoption across farms and watersheds is analyzed utilizing count models. Spatial lag, spatial error, and a general spatial model are utilized to determine whether contagion plays a role in BMP adoption

decisions at the farm level. Study results indicate that farm acreage and the presence of a stream are significant contributors to BMP adoption. However, the efficiency of policy targeting could be improved through greater emphasis on adoption near impaired streams and in higher priority watersheds. Despite the presence of spatially correlated errors, results indicate that contagion plays a significant role in BMP adoption. It is hypothesized that neighbor interactions and social networking play a role in creating this spatial dependence.

### *Master's Thesis Award of Merit*

## **Determinants of Health Care Use Among Rural, Low-Income Mothers and Children: A Simultaneous Systems Approach to Negative Binomial Regression Modeling**

**Swetha Valluri**

**University of Massachusetts-Amherst  
Advisor: Sheila Mammen**

The determinants of health care use among rural, low-income mothers and their children were assessed using a multi-state, longitudinal data set, "Rural Families Speak." The results indicate that rural mothers' decisions regarding health care utilization for themselves and for their child can be best modeled using a simultaneous systems approach to negative binomial regression. Mothers' visits to a health care provider increased with higher self-assessed depression scores, increased number of child's doctor visits, greater numbers of total children in the household, greater numbers of chronic conditions, need for prenatal or post-partum care, development of a new medical condition, and having health insurance (Medicaid/equivalent and HMO/private). Child's visits to a health care provider, on the other hand, increased with greater numbers of chronic conditions, development of a new medical condition, and increased mothers' visits to a doctor. Child's

utilization of pediatric health care services decreased with higher levels of maternal depression, greater numbers of total children in the household, if the mother had HMO/private health care coverage, if the mother was pregnant, and if the mother was Latina/African American. Mother's use of health care services decreased with her age, increased number of child's chronic conditions, income as a percentage of the federal poverty line, and if child had HMO/private health care insurance. The study expands the econometric techniques available for assessing maternal and pediatric health care use and the results contribute to an understanding of how rural, low-income mothers choose the level of health care services use for themselves and for their child. Additionally, the results would assist in formulating policies to reorient the type of health care services provided to this vulnerable population.

## ***Distinguished Member Award***

*This award recognizes members who have made continuous and outstanding contributions to the Association, the region, and the profession. The award recognizes members for significant recent professional achievement in the context of an overall meritorious record. Recipients must be members in good standing and be nominated by three other members. A recipient can receive the award more than once, based on recent achievements.*

### **C.S. Kim**

C.S. Kim is a Senior Economist at the Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (ERS/USDA). He received his Ph.D. in Production Economics from Oregon State University. He received his M.S. in Statistics, with a minor in Operations Research, from Utah State University. His background and training have shaped a very unique and specialized research agenda that is valuable to both academics and policymakers. His research interests include theoretical modeling of natural resource and agricultural policy issues, especially those pertaining to groundwater use and groundwater quality.

Dr. Kim has published over 40 articles in 15 journals including *Agricultural and Resource Economics Review*, *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, *Risk Analysis*, *Environmental and Resource Economics*, *Water Resources Research*, *Natural Resource Modeling*, *Energy and Environment*, and *Applied Mathematics*. In addition to these are several book chapters, technical bulletins, and over 500 tables of U.S. crop production systems for USDA.

As further evidence of his important scholarly contributions, Dr. Kim has received numerous

awards for his research. He received Best Journal Article of the Year from *Risk Analysis* in 2010 and from *Agricultural and Resource Economics Review* in 2006. His work has been invaluable for instruction as well. His article "A Dynamic Model of Adaptations to Resource Depletion: Theory and an Application to Groundwater Mining," published in the *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management* in 1989, was recognized for a USDA Special Merit Award for developing an improved methodology for dynamic adaptation of depletable resource management, and is currently being used as a reference for graduate-level resource economic courses in many major universities.

More recently, Dr. Kim has worked on other areas such as invasive species management, U.S. farm structural changes, industrial structural change, international trade, carbon sequestration, and biofuel economics. He continues to be very active in NAREA events and provides an inspiration for everyone for his wide variety of research interests and continuous significant contributions to both scholarly research and agricultural policy. C.S. Kim is a very valuable member of NAREA and one we would like to recognize as a Distinguished Member for 2012.

## ***NAREA Award for Outstanding Public Service Through Economics***

*This award was created to recognize and encourage contributions to the general public welfare. The intent is to recognize that agricultural, environmental, consumer, resource, or community development economics can be applied to solve important problems affecting the quality of life of the general public, and that such contributions may come outside the traditional, sometimes narrowly defined, contributions to research, teaching, or extension. The award may be given to anyone, including noneconomists and nonmembers of NAREA.*

### **Katherine R. Smith**

Dr. Katherine (Kitty) Smith is Vice President for Programs and Chief Economist for American Farmland Trust, a national NGO dedicated to saving farmland, promoting environmentally sound practices, and keeping farmers on the land. Before joining the Trust in 2011, Dr. Smith functioned in a variety of capacities for thirty years at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service (ERS), beginning as a research economist and, in 2007, being named its Administrator. Along the way, she served as Associate Director of its Resources and Technology Division, and Director of its Market and Trade Economics Division and its Resource Economics Division.

Dr. Smith, who received a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics and a B.S. in the biological sciences from the University of Maryland, has served the agricultural economics profession and the greater public in many important ways. During her long career at ERS, she worked both from inside the public sector and in non-profit advocacy positions, championing important policy research and using that research to inform public policy decisions. She helped ERS move into many innovative areas. For example, in 2010, she helped push ERS into studying how behavioral economics can improve food and nutrition programs. She also spearheaded efforts in carbon market designs, food security projects, organic farming and marketing, and many other policy areas. Her principal areas of expertise have been policy analysis—particularly agricultural and resource policies—and the relationships among agricultural production and environmental quality. Her work from this period is published in several books and a range of scholarly journals, USDA reports, and numerous other popular outlets.

This résumé of Dr. Smith's career includes a period with the National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy at Resources for the Future, where she was Senior Fellow from 1989 to 1991. From 1993 to 1996, she was Policy Studies Program Director at the Henry A. Wallace Institute for Alternative Agriculture. During the transition of the Obama Administration, she served as Acting Deputy Undersecretary for USDA's Research, Education and Economics mission area. Her contributions to the profession have garnered her numerous distinctions, including, while as a research administrator at ERS, the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executives, in 2001. In 2008, she was made a Fellow of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (formerly the American Agricultural Economics Association).

Through the 2012 Award for Outstanding Public Service Through Economics, NAREA recognizes the many contributions that Dr. Smith has made to the agricultural and resource economics profession. She has mentored and supported countless agricultural and resource economists, and pushed them to pursue innovative and high-impact policy research, prompting a former colleague of hers to observe of Dr. Smith that she is "is very organized, thoughtful, and above all else—supportive. She also has an uncanny ability to identify important issues and topics before most other people." Dr. Smith's distinguished leadership and guidance at the Economic Research Service, and her many contributions through other capacities in a long and influential career, have earned the distinction that this award confers in our profession.

*Journal Article of the Year for 2011*

**Open Space and Urban Sprawl: The Effects of Zoning and Forest Conservation Regulations in Maryland**

(*ARER* Vol. 40, No. 3, December 2011: 393–404)

**Erik Lichtenberg**

Rapid urbanization enhances the desirability of policies for preserving open space but policies intended to preserve open space may extend the urban boundary and create leapfrog development. We investigate this potential conflict between open space preservation and urban sprawl conceptually and empirically using data from the Baltimore-Washington suburbs. In accord with previous theoretical and empirical results, the estimated econo-

metric model indicates that both zoning and forest planting requirements contribute to sprawl by increasing the amount of land needed to accommodate the current number of households. These results point to a conflict between preserving open space incorporated into private building lots or internal to subdivisions and public open space at the urban fringe.

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